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May 1, 2013

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) offers its strongest support for the Animal and Public Health Protection Act. This legislation addresses a longstanding need to officially establish the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) in statute. Most importantly, your legislation authorizes essential funding to detect and respond to emerging and existing threats to animal health and to protect public health.

Because of your leadership, resources will become available to tackle NAHLN's genuine need to enhance its infrastructure, personnel, information technology, and quality assurance. A robust NAHLN will help control any potential disease outbreak, limit the spread of disease to more animals and, as a result, limit the diseases' impact on public health, animal suffering, interruption of food supply, and the financial health of livestock and related industries.

The AVMA applauds your leadership and pledges to work with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Executive Vice President and CEO